



**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY
ASILOMAR STATE BEACH AND CONFERENCE GROUNDS
PRELIMINARY GENERAL PLAN
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT**

Date: January 23, 2004

To: All Interested Agencies, Organizations, and Persons

A Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) has been prepared by the California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) for the Asilomar State Beach and Conference Grounds Preliminary General Plan (General Plan). DPR is the lead agency, pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), responsible for preparation of this document.

PROJECT LOCATION

Asilomar State Beach and Conference Grounds is located on the western extremity of the Monterey Peninsula within the City of Pacific Grove. The Asilomar State Beach and Conference Grounds fronts about one mile of open shoreline and occupies 107 acres of scenic forest and sand dunes.

Approximately 65 of the unit's acres are undergoing dune restoration to reestablish the natural biotic community. Fences, boardwalks and trails have been established in the dunes along the shoreline to protect the restored plant communities, reduce erosion and trampling and to provide public access.

Scenic Coast State Route 1 provides year-round road access to the Monterey Peninsula from the north and south. State Routes 68 and 152 connect to the coast route from the major arterials of State Route 101 and Interstate 5 inland. The City of San Francisco is 185 miles to the north, while Los Angeles is 390 miles to the south. From State Route 1, Asilomar is accessed either via State Route 68 to Asilomar Avenue, or by Ocean View Boulevard west and south along the coast from Cannery Row in Monterey. Air connections to major metropolitan areas are available from nearby Monterey Peninsula Airport.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Asilomar State Beach and Conference Grounds is an internationally renowned and historically important conference center known for its beauty and the tranquility of its setting. The center is a complex of meeting halls, dining facilities, and guest rooms situated on approximately 45 acres.

The Asilomar State Beach and Conference Grounds General Plan has been prepared to address management of these lands in a comprehensive manner. The purpose of a California State Park General Plan is to provide the primary management guideline for a park unit by defining a framework for resource stewardship, interpretation, facilities, visitor use, and services. General Plans define the ultimate purpose, vision, and intent for unit management through goal statements, guidelines, and broad objectives, but stop short of defining specific objectives, methodologies and designs on how to accomplish these goals.

A management zone was identified for Asilomar State Beach and Conference Grounds: the Resource Protection Management Zone. Desired resource conditions, desired visitor experience, and potential uses and facilities were identified for the Resource Protection Management Zone, along with specific goals and guidelines. The General Plan provides long term direction and guidelines for future proposed facilities, land use, resource policies, management, operation, interpretation and concession operations at Asilomar State Beach and Conference Grounds. The General Plan also includes an environmental analysis as the first tier of a tiered environmental impact report in accordance with California Environmental Quality Act guidelines. Future implementation of General Plan proposals could occur in phases as funding becomes available, and these proposals will be subject to additional (tiered) environmental review as appropriate.

SUMMARY OF IMPACTS

The EIR analyzes a program-level analysis of the potential environmental impacts associated with the Preliminary General Plan. No significant environmental impacts would occur as a result of the proposed project.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

The 45-day public comment period for this programmatic Draft EIR will commence on January 23, 2004 and conclude on March 8, 2004. Copies of the Preliminary General Plan and Draft EIR will be available on line at www.parks.ca.gov and available for viewing at these local locations:

Monterey District Headquarters
2211 Garden Road
Monterey, CA 93940

Monterey City Library
625 Pacific Street
Monterey, CA 93940

Monterey County Free Library –
Marina Branch
266 Reservation Road
Marina, CA 93933

Pacific Grove Public Library
550 Central Avenue
Pacific Grove, CA 93950

Please submit comments in writing to the address provided below. Comment letters must be postmarked by March 7, 2004.

Mr. Terry Lee, ASLA
Central Service Center
Department of Parks and Recreation
21 Lower Ragsdale Drive
Monterey, CA 93940
(831) 657-6349